

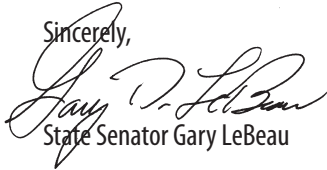
Dear Neighbor,

As Senate chairman of the legislature's Commerce Committee, I have a unique opportunity and responsibility to lead the way in crafting legislation to promote economic growth and prosperity for my district and the entire state. As your state Senator I take this responsibility very seriously.

This year, I was dismayed to learn that since 1991, Connecticut has experienced no net job growth. As a result, through the committee I chair, the legislature has taken the reins of job growth this session in order to steer the state toward a future that is brighter than our past. As co-chair of the Commerce Committee, I have been the principal author of comprehensive legislation to improve job creation in our state. This legislation invests in education, job-creating university-business partnerships, transportation improvements, and promising fuel cell technologies grown in our district's own back yard. A few of these proposals are described in this newsletter.

Each of these proposals is intended to promote a robust economy with a focus on quality job creation and retention. I have ushered these initiatives through the Commerce Committee and will continue to keep a vigilant watch over these various pieces of legislation as they make their way through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

  
State Senator Gary LeBeau



Your State Senator

**GARY LEBEAU**

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## FROM YOUR STATE SENATOR

# GARY LEBEAU

### 2006 COMMERCE COMMITTEE BILLS

The bills listed below have yet to become law. They were passed by the Commerce Committee and have currently been referred to other committees. I will work hard to ensure that these committees pass these bills and that they are afforded a full vote of the legislature. Bills that were approved by the Commerce Committee with my support include the following:

#### Hydrogen Road Map

I am fighting to pass win-win legislation I authored establishing a strategy for the state to maximize the benefits of our home-grown fuel cell technologies. This “road map” will help our district, and Connecticut as a whole, grow jobs in this high-tech field that is centered in the 3rd Senate District. It will also provide real opportunities for hospitals, schools, governmental facilities and others to become liberated from the power grid and make pollution-free electricity on-site.

#### Small Business Partnerships

Connecticut's economic future is dependent upon the success of small businesses owned and operated by neighbors in our communities. This session, I authored legislation providing more resources for incubators to help small business entrepreneurs develop the imaginative ideas that will lead us into the future. I also co-authored

legislation establishing “DREAM” research and development matching grants. This program will help innovation spark the economy by supplementing grants small businesses win from the federal Department of Defense for cutting-edge research.

#### Eliminating the Tax on Manufacturing Equipment

I also introduced legislation eliminating the burdensome tax on manufacturing equipment that makes Connecticut a less-attractive place for manufacturers to run their business. Over the last few years, the United States has experienced a resurgence of manufacturing employment that has somewhat skipped over Connecticut. By eliminating this tax, we can attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge precision manufacturing jobs that are critical to our future economy.

#### Scoring Jobs at Rentschler Field

There is more than one way for Connecticut to score at Rentschler Field. This session I am fighting for a number of enhancements to Rentschler Field that could turn this former air strip into the job generator of the future. In addition to pushing for road enhancements that improve access while preserving the character of the local community, I authored legislation with Senate President Pro Tempore Donald Williams establishing a Center for Entrepreneurship that will assist promising technologies—including fuel cells—turn imagination into jobs for our state.

#### Synergizing a Business and Research Connection

This session, I have worked with the higher education community to create stronger connections between promising businesses and the university expertise that can help bring innovative products—and more jobs—to market. If enacted into law, my proposal would help universities attract more pre-eminent technology faculty and their labs to the University of Connecticut. This proposal would help Connecticut attract new businesses to the state and retain the most promising students to stay here after graduating from college.

